

of the head in these two species. In the *Vulture* there is a space between the upper parts of the orbits in which the olfactory ganglions and nerves are situated, and the nasal cavity anterior to these is of a much greater breadth and also longer, as well as exhibiting internally a greater extent of pituitary surface, than in the *Turkey*. In this bird the olfactory nerves are compressed within a narrow interorbital space, which would not admit of the lodgement of ganglions; the olfactory nerves after passing through this space then diverge to the nasal cavity.

"In the *Goose* the olfactory nerves are developed to the same size as in the *Vulture*, and expand upon superior spongy bones of similar form, but placed wider apart, and these supply the middle spongy bones which are longer but not so broad as in the *Turkey*. The olfactory branch of the 5th pair is double the size of that in the *Vulture* or *Turkey*; it gives, however, not a greater proportion of filament to the nose than in those birds, but is mainly expended upon the membrane covering the upper mandible.

"The above notes show that the *Vulture* has a well-developed organ of smell, but whether he finds his prey by that sense alone, or in what degree it assists, anatomy is not so well calculated to explain as experiment.

"I will bring my preparations showing the above at next meeting, and am truly yours,

"Royal College of Surgeons, March 7th."

"R. OWEN."

Mr. Gould brought before the notice of the meeting, from the collection of Mr. Darwin, a new species of *Rhea* from Patagonia, and after offering some observations upon the distribution of the *Struthionide*, and upon the great interest attending this addition to that family, he remarked that the new species is distinguished from *Rhea Americana* of authors, in being one-fifth less in size, in having the bill shorter than the head, and the *tarsi* reticulated in front instead of scutellated, and in being plumed below the knee for several inches. It has also a more densely plumed wing, the feathers of which are broader, and all terminated by a band of white.

Mr. Gould, in conclusion, adverted to the important accessions to science resulting from the exertions of Mr. Darwin, and to his liberality in presenting the Society with his valuable Zoological Collection; to commemorate which he proposed to designate this interesting species by the name of *Rhea Darwinii*.

Mr. Darwin then read some notes upon the *Rhea Americana*, and upon the newly described species, but principally referring to the former.

This bird abounds over the plains of Northern Patagonia and the United Provinces of La Plata; and though fleet in its paces and shy in its nature, it yet falls an easy prey to the hunters, who confound it by approaching on horseback in a semicircle. When pursued it generally prefers running against the wind, expanding its wings to the full extent. It is not generally known that the *Rhea* is in the habit of swimming, but on two occasions Mr. Darwin witnessed their